

CLAIMS

1. A mail processing system comprising:

a franking machine;

at least one removable user interactive display coupled to the franking machine, then at least one removable display including a wireless connection for wireless communication between the removable display and the franking machine when the removable display is physically disconnected from the franking machine.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the franking machine includes a second graphical user interface that is activated when the at least one removable display is in an undocked operating mode.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the at least one removable display comprises a personal digital assistant.

4. A method for managing mail processing activities in a mailroom comprising:

removing a portable display of the franking machine from the franking machine;

activating a second display associated with the franking machine;

using the portable display to operate another function in the mailroom related to the mail processing activities other than the franking machine, while the franking machine is franking mail pieces.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising using the portable display to scanning incoming packages and mail for identifier information.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising using the portable display to meter outgoing mail.

7. The method of claim 4 further comprising arranging for a shipment of mailpieces via a commercial carrier using the portable display.

8. The method of claim 4 further comprising replenishing funds for the franking machine to print postal indicia by establishing a telemeter setting link between the portable display and a funds provider; transferring data related to the funds to the portable display; and transferring the data related to the funds from the portable display to the franking machine.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the information related to the funds is transferred from the portable

display to the franking machine when the portable display is reinserted into the franking machine.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the information related to the funds is transferred from the portable display to the franking machine over a wireless communication link.

11. A computer program product comprising:

a computer useable medium having a computer readable code means embodied therein for causing a computer to manage multiple activities in a mailroom by using a portable display of a franking machine to operate other mail processing devices, the computer readable code means in the computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to activate a second display of the franking machine when the portable display is removed from the franking machine;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to maintain a wireless communication connection between the portable display, the franking machine and other mail processing devices in the mailroom; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to enable the portable display to

interface with and operate the other mail processing devices in the mailroom while the franking machine is franking mail pieces.